



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

www.publichealthbytes.org

Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership
with the citizens of
Henrico County to create
the conditions for health.

July 2007

Volume 3

Issue 7

Environmental Health

Botulism: If you identify patients with new onset diplopia, dysphagia, slurred speech and a descending symmetric paralysis, review their food history for consumption of chili sauce in view of a recent recall of Castleberry's brand Hot Dog Chili Sauce. Symptoms generally begin 18 to 36 hours after eating a contaminated food, but they can occur as early as 6 hours or as late as 10 days. Health care providers evaluating persons with signs of botulism should report to us immediately. The recall includes some canned dog food also. A listing of the recalled products can be found at the following website:

http://www.castleberry.com/news_productrecall.asp

Remind patients also to discard 1) any recalled product with missing or unreadable "best by" dates 2) foods that may have been prepared with a recalled product and 3) canned chili sauce, chili, beef stew, hash, corned beef hash, barbecue pork, barbecue beef, chip beef, Brunswick stew, sausage gravy or canned dog food of any unknown brand. Onset dates of those already diagnosed with botulism ranged from June 29 to July 9, 2007.

Lead Poisoning: Virginia has an online lead poisoning resource for healthcare professionals, www.leadpoison.org. The site provides free continuing medical education and vital, timely information on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all forms of lead poisoning.

Pandemic Flu/Avian Flu- ALERT PHASE: 3

Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases—Vietnam has confirmed two new human cases of influenza A (H5N1) virus infection, the first human cases to have been reported from Viet Nam since November 2005. New cases were reported in Indonesia. **Animal cases**- During routine testing of poultry flocks prior to slaughter, VDACS determined that a turkey flock in Shenandoah County tested suspicious for antibodies of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). For further detail see: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/news/releases-b/070907ai.shtml>

Communicable Diseases Update

West Nile Virus: Henrico County has not reported any WNV positive mosquito pools to date. As temperatures rise, WNV activity is likely to increase. One human case of WNV has been reported in Virginia for the 2007 season, but none in the Richmond Metro area. Please remind patients to practice arboviral disease prevention, including use of recommended repellents. **Enteric disease:** We are observing an increase in reported cases of enteric diseases in Henrico this summer. Persons in high risk settings (food service, LTCF, daycare, etc) testing positive for enteric diseases should remain out of these settings until their diarrhea ceases. The health department can provide further guidance in individual cases.

Emergency Preparedness

HENRICO PANDEMIC INFLUENZA SUMMIT: REMINDER – Friday, August 3, 2007. RSVP required for this no-cost session. Program flyer is available at www.HenricoPrepares.org or contact Augustine Doe at 501-4643 or Augustine.Doe@vdh.virginia.gov. The morning sessions will provide an opportunity to hear from key community leaders and avian flu experts. Breakout sessions in the afternoon will allow input on community plans and identification of important planning gaps. A videotape of survivors of the 1918 "Spanish" flu pandemic will also be presented.

Physicians unable to stay for the entire summit are invited to a one hour physician roundtable breakfast session that morning beginning at 7:45 am at the hotel.

This roundtable session will allow you to learn more about community plans, provide input into planning and take home key planning resources. Please RSVP at 501-4522 or email at Beverly.Stone@vdh.virginia.gov

Prevention/School Health/Resources

School related: The **Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213F)** has been updated. Forms, directions and ordering instructions are available at: <http://www.vahealth.org/schoolhealth/publications.asp>.

VDH has created a FAQ sheet related to the new form.

See: www.publichealthbytes.org. **Immunization -**

Remember the **Tdap** requirement for rising 6th and 7th graders. The health department is holding special Tdap clinics for children in these age groups from now until the end of August. Call our east (652-3190) or west (501-4651) facilities for further details.

Prevention updates: From the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF): ... "recommends screening for chlamydial infection for all sexually active non-pregnant young women aged 24 and younger and for older non-pregnant women who are at increased risk." For additional detail, including pregnancy screening, see: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspstfchl.htm>.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Care Services Resource Guide- See www.CLASActVirginia.org for excellent resources for Virginia health care providers.

Prepared by Henrico Health District:

Mark J. Levine, MD, MPH
District Health Director
Michael K. Magner, MPH
Emergency Planner

J. Rebecca Early, MPH
District Epidemiologist
Augustine Doe, MHA
MRC/Pan Flu Coord.

Tel: (804) 501-4522 Fax: (804) 501-4232

Emergency Number: 1-866-531-3068

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/henrico/>